

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DPW-01 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01 /054 W

----- 090404

P R 150720Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5670

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO CINCPAC HI

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

COMUSMACTHAI

DET 5 7602 AINTGP BANGKOK

UNCLAS BANGKOK 12638

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, MILI, VS, TH

SUBJ: FORMER THAI AND SVN POWS INVITATION TO POW REUNION

1. EMBASSIES BANGKOK AND SAIGON HAVE ASSISTED REPRESENTATIVES--CAPTAIN JENKINS AND RUTLEDGE USN--OF RED RIVER FIGHTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION IN EXTENDING INVITATIONS TO TWO FORMER THAI POWS AND ONE THAI WIFE--CAPTAIN CHEM, CAPTAIN AND MRS. PRAPHAS--AND ONE FORMER VNAF POW--LT. DAT--TO ATTEND ASSOCIATION MEETING IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, 24-26 AUG 73.

2. WHILE THESE INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN NON-GOVERNMENT SPONSORED, THEY HAVE ATTRACTED ENOUGH ATTENTION THAT IT IS DEEMED IN THE BEST INTEREST OF USG FOR FUTURE COUNTRY-TO-COUNTRY RELATIONS TO HAVE USG FUND TRAVEL TO US OF THESE FOUR INDIVIDUALS, PLUS NECESSARY ESCORTS (MR. DONALD BECKER AND WIFE, DET 5, 7602 AIR INTELLIGENCE GROUP, BANGKOK) FROM SAIGON/BANGKOK TO US. WE UNDERSTAND RRFPA WILL ARRANGE FOR PAYMENT OF ALL COSTS FOR TRAVEL WITHIN UNITED STATES.

3. ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED DESIGNATED THAI INVITEES WITH GENEROUS CLOTHING ALLOWANCE AND POCKET MONEY AND HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY REPLY REGARDING DATE OF DEPARTURE AND MODE OF
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TRANSPORT. FYI. LAST MAC SCHEDULED FLIGHT FROM BANGKOK 18 AUGUST

UTAPAO 21 AUGUST TO TRAVIS AFB CALIFORNIA. END FYI.

4. FOR SAIGON: WE HAVE ADVISED RTG INFORMALLY THAT VISITORS
SHOULD PLAN FOR TWO-WEEK STAY IN USA.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: URGENT ISSUANCE DOD INVITATIONAL TRAVEL
ORDERS FOR THE ABOVE SIX INDIVIDUALS TO TRAVEL BY MAC OR
COMMERCIAL AIR FROM BANGKOK TO US AND RETURN, AND FROM SAIGON TO
BANGKOK AND RETURN FOR LT. DAT.
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NNN

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